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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/761,049	01/20/2004	Matthias Helmstetter	TRW(ASG)6917	1177
26294	7590	03/01/2006	EXAMINER	
TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL & TUMMINO L.L.P.			DUNN, DAVID R	
1300 EAST NINTH STREET, SUITE 1700			ART UNIT	
CLEVEVLAND, OH 44114			PAPER NUMBER	

3616

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/761,049

Applicant(s)

HELMSTETTER ET AL.

Examiner

David Dunn

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/17/04, 7/20/04</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cundill (US 5,992,875).

Cundill discloses a gas bag module having a gas generator carrier (10) with a base (22) and peripheral wall (20), and a covering cap (40) with a side wall (48) extending from a front wall of the cap, characterized in that detent hooks (60) are formed on an edge of the side wall facing away from the front wall, which engage into corresponding detent openings (24) in the base of the carrier.

3. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fischer (US 6,086,090).

Fischer discloses a gas bag module having a gas generator carrier (32) with a base (26) and peripheral wall (28), and a covering cap (24) with a side wall (30) extending from a front wall of the cap, characterized in that detent hooks (see lower end of 30 with downward shaped hook portion, to the right of “26”) are formed on an edge of the side wall facing away from the front wall, which engage into corresponding detent openings (to the right of “26”) in the base of

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the carrier. The external diameter of the side wall (30) corresponds to an internal diameter of the peripheral wall (28) and the detent openings adjoin the wall.

4. Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gordon et al. (US 5,409,256).

Gordon et al. discloses a gas bag module having a gas generator carrier (42; see Figure 3) with a base and peripheral wall (46), and a covering cap (20) with a side wall (26) extending from a front wall of the cap, characterized in that detent hooks (28) are formed on an edge of the side wall facing away from the front wall, which engage into corresponding detent openings (52) in the base of the carrier.

5. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Herrmann et al. (US 5,762,361).

Herrmann et al. discloses a gas bag module having a gas generator carrier (12; see Figure 4) with a base (36'', see Figure 5) and peripheral wall (inner 46), and a covering cap (14) with a side wall (51) extending from a front wall of the cap, characterized in that detent hooks (see Figure 6) are formed on an edge of the side wall facing away from the front wall, which engage into corresponding detent openings (see Figure 5) in the base of the carrier. An external diameter of the side wall corresponds to an internal diameter of the wall (see Figure 6); the detent hooks point outwards and engage behind an underside of the peripheral wall. The base includes spring elements (outer 46).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer in view of Ford (US 6,412,812).

Fischer is discussed above and fails to the carrier consisting of plastic.

Ford teaches an air bag module with a carrier (80) made of plastic (see column 2, lines 25-28).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Fischer with the teachings of Ford to provide the carrier of plastic in order to help reduce the weight of the module.

8. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon et al. in view of Ford (US 6,412,812).

Gordon et al. is discussed above and fails to the carrier consisting of plastic.

Ford teaches an air bag module with a carrier (80) made of plastic (see column 2, lines 25-28).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Gordon et al. with the teachings of Ford to provide the carrier of plastic in order to help reduce the weight of the module.

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9. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herrmann et al. in view of Ford (US 6,412,812).

Herrmann et al. is discussed above and fails to the carrier consisting of plastic.

Ford teaches an air bag module with a carrier (80) made of plastic (see column 2, lines 25-28).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Herrmann et al. with the teachings of Ford to provide the carrier of plastic in order to help reduce the weight of the module.

Conclusion

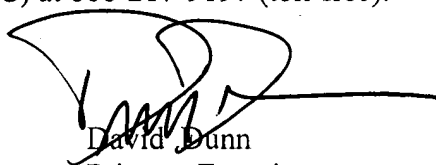
10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Amamori shows a lid connection of interest. Herrmann et al. shows a connection of interest. Schenck et al. shows an airbag module of interest.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Dunn whose telephone number is 571-272-6670. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on 571-272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David Dunn
Primary Examiner
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